

[c13]

A Pointe shoe in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the transverse joint provides rotation of the fore front element with regard to the mid-foot element said joint further including a control plate mounting said elements together, a spring mounted to the control plate at one end and a guide and pin located thereon with the spring extending about the guide and pin to control rotation of said elements.

[c14]

A Pointe shoe in accordance with Claim 1 further including:

a plurality of liners comprising a sense shaping material, cushioning material, an inner liner for ease of ingress and egress and an inner non-slip liner for stabilizing the shoe position when secured to the foot.

[c15]

A Pointe shoe in accordance with Claim 1 further including:

securing means for joining the mid-foot and toe box elements.

[c16]

A Pointe shoe in accordance with Claim 15 wherein:

the securing means comprises at least one buckle having one mounted to the mid foot element and the other element mounted to the toe box.

[c17]

A Pointe shoe in accordance with Claim 15 further including:

a plurality of straps for securing the shoe to the foot.

Abstract of Disclosure

[0059] The invention is a Pointe shoe for ballet. It has a rigid mid-foot section and a rigid toe loop connected by a transverse axis joint located at the metatarsal-phalange joint (M-P). With the foot in Pointe position, the weight of the dancer is supported by the rigid mid-foot section. The downward force is passed through the M-P joint to the front of the toe loop. None of the weight of the dancer needs to be supported by the

toes. In contrast, prior art Pointe shoes have a rigid shank and toe box to assist the toes in supporting the weight of the dancer. The toes have small bones, muscles, and ligaments. This often results in pain and injury to the toes. The shoe of invention has a mid-foot section that is shaped with support surfaces for the sole of the heel bone and the dorsal side of the cuneiform and metatarsal bones. These bones are larger and stronger than the bones of the toes. This shoe provides a larger area of bone and tissue to support the weight of the dancer on Pointe. It is more comfortable to use and results in fewer injuries.